

14th  
**BISFF**

Bengaluru International Short Film Festival

OSCAR®  
Academy  
accredited  
festival



# ANNUAL REPORT 2024





## EVENT OVERVIEW

The 14th edition of the Bengaluru International Short Film Festival (BISFF) took place from 8th to 18th August 2024, adopting an innovative hybrid format that expanded its reach both locally and globally. The festival featured online screenings throughout the entire duration, with in-person screenings starting from 15th August at prominent venues such as Suchitra Film Society, Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan, and The Indian Institute of World Culture (IIWC) in Bengaluru.

This year's theme, "Inclusive, Exclusive", centered around the concept of representation, placing a spotlight on the richness of diversity in filmmaking. It celebrated a vast range of voices and perspectives across multiple categories, ensuring that filmmakers from underrepresented backgrounds were given a well-deserved platform. The festival championed inclusivity, not just in content but also in access, creating opportunities for filmmakers from varied cultural, social, and economic backgrounds.

As India's only OSCAR-qualifying short film festival, BISFF offers an incredible opportunity for filmmakers. Winners from two prestigious categories are automatically eligible to enter the OSCAR shortlist in the Live Action Short Film category, further cementing BISFF's reputation as a globally recognized platform for cinematic excellence.

This year's festival continued to uphold its commitment to nurturing the spirit of innovation and inclusivity in the world of short films, making it a key player in the global festival circuit.



### JEO BABY

**At our opening ceremony with a shot of wisdom  
and a frame of inspiration!**





# BENGALURU INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

## FESTIVAL FORMAT

BISFF 2024 followed a hybrid model, allowing audiences to experience the festival both in-person and through the BISFF OTT platform, where films could be streamed online. This approach significantly broadened accessibility, offering flexibility for those unable to attend in person while maintaining the excitement of in-person screenings. By blending physical and virtual experiences, the festival ensured a wider reach, making it more inclusive for audiences around the world.

## FILM SELECTION

This year, BISFF received 3,000+ submissions from around the globe, with 284 carefully curated short films selected for the festival. These films spanned a wide array of themes, cultures, and stories, offering a rich and diverse cinematic experience. To highlight distinct voices in filmmaking, BISFF introduced eight competition sections, including International, Indian, Karnataka, Animation International, Animation Indian, Let's Include (films on disability), Queer Qorner (LGBTQ+ films), and the Women's Cinema Collective (films by women filmmakers). In addition to that, the festival featured a non-competition section, further showcasing groundbreaking talent from around the world.

# KEY HIGHLIGHTS

## HYBRID EXPERIENCE

The festival's hybrid format made it possible for viewers to either attend screenings in person or stream films on the BISFF OTT platform anywhere in India. This dual approach allowed for increased participation, both locally and India wide, and provided greater accessibility for a wider audience.

## DIVERSE FILM SELECTION

BISFF 2024 showcased an extensive variety of short films, categorised as:

- **Indian Competition** - Oscar Category
- **International Competition** - Oscar Category
- **Animation Competition** (Indian and International)
- **Karnataka Competition**

Additionally, there were specially curated categories such as:

- **Let's Include:** Dedicated to disabled filmmakers and films focused on disability themes.
- **Queer Qorner:** Focused on LGBTQ+ directors, themes, and stories.
- **Women's Cinema Collective:** Highlighting films by and about women, championing female voices in short films.

## MASTERCLASSES

The festival featured masterclasses by industry veterans:

- Sri Crazymindz: Offering insights on the art of editing.
- Ramakrishna Kannarpady: Conducting a session on makeup artistry.

These masterclasses provided attendees with invaluable knowledge from experienced professionals, further solidifying BISFF as a hub for creative learning.



**SRI CRAZYMINDZ**  
sharing his secrets to cinematic success



**RAMAKRISHNA KANNARPADY**  
demonstrating the power of makeup



# KEY HIGHLIGHTS

## PANEL DISCUSSIONS

BISFF showcased many panel discussions to keep the audience asking for more

1. **First Short to First Feature** - A discussion with filmmakers who graduated from shorts film to feature films in the last few years. On the panel were Abhijit Mahesh, Srinidhi Bengaluru, Naveen Dwarkanath, Akarsh HP. The panel was moderated by writer Abhishek Iyengar.
2. **Cinema Platforms: Future Ready** - A conversation on with platforms creators which are helping cinema promote in different forms. On the panel Abhaya Sinha (Founder, ForScreens), Vijay Dingari (Co-founder, Producer Bazaar) and Vish Desai (Advisor, Trophosphere).
3. **Queer Cinema: Yesterday & Tomorrow** - Exploring the power of storytelling in Queer Drama. On the panel, Joshua Muiywa, Alex, Romal Singh moderated by Shreya Krishna.
4. **Navigate the Festival Circuit** - A fire side chat with Vishal Shinde and Anand Varadaraj on Unlocking the secrets to global success with Navigating the Festival Circuit.

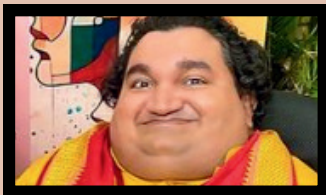


Engaging panels, thought-provoking discussions—filmmakers, innovators, and catalysts!

# KEY HIGHLIGHTS

## NOTABLE JURY MEMBERS

BISFF 2024 was honored to have a distinguished panel of jury members, including Samyukta Hornad, Dr. Sai Kaustuv Dashgupta, Advaita Gurumurthy, Vishal Shinde and Joshua Muiwa, among others. Each jury member brought a wealth of experience and unique perspectives, contributing to a comprehensive and thoughtful evaluation process that ensured the selection of truly deserving winners.



Jury members in action—sharing insights on panels, gracing the red carpet, and presenting well-deserved awards with style!

## MEDIA COVERAGE

BISFF 2024 received widespread media coverage both before and after the festival, with features in major publications such as Deccan Herald, The Times of India and Hindustan Times. The festival's presence was amplified through social media campaigns and radio promotions, all of which played a crucial role in raising awareness and celebrating independent short films and emerging filmmakers.



Headlines and highlights—capturing the buzz and challenges of BISFF 2024!



# KEY HIGHLIGHTS

## VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

A team of dedicated volunteers worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of the festival. Their invaluable contributions played a pivotal role in the event's success, from assisting with logistics to managing audience interactions. From the planning stages to the closing ceremony, their dedication and hard work were instrumental in creating a memorable experience for all.



**The Superheroes of the festival—from posing for photos to lifting heavy loads, our volunteers juggled it all with incredible grace and efficiency.**





# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

BISFF 2024 featured a diverse lineup of 284 short films from over 30 countries, spanning 50+ languages, covering genres such as drama, animation, and experimental films. These films were sourced from India and across the globe, ensuring a rich tapestry of stories and cultural perspectives.

## INDIAN HIGHLIGHTS

Indian short films were a prominent feature of BISFF 2024, showcasing a diverse range of stories from across the country. Films in over 20 Indian languages, including lesser-known languages like Khasi and Kodava Takk, were featured, offering a glimpse into the rich and varied cinematic landscape of India. Notable films like *Sunflowers were the first ones to know*, *Lost in Teleportation* and *Ayesha* delved into contemporary Indian society, culture, and pressing social issues, resonating deeply with the audience.

## INTERNATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

With submissions from over 30 countries across five continents, the festival showcased a diverse range of world cinema, offering Indian audiences a unique opportunity to experience short films from around the globe. Over 50 international films were premiered at the festival, including several world and international premieres. The short films featured represented a wide range of languages, cultures, and perspectives, offering audiences a unique opportunity to experience storytelling from around the world.

## FOCUS ON REGIONAL CINEMA

BISFF continued its tradition of promoting regional cinema, with a special focus on Karnataka's filmmaking talent. Films from local filmmakers were well-received, with audiences appreciating the authenticity and regional flavor of the narratives. The festival showcased a diverse range of films in various Karnataka dialects, including Tulu, Havyaka, Kodava, and Uttara Karnataka, providing a platform for emerging filmmakers to showcase their work and connect with audiences.



# AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

## ATTENDANCE NUMBERS

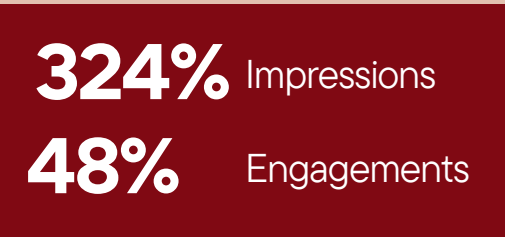
BISFF 2024 saw a substantial increase in attendance, with packed theaters at all venues. The hybrid model further extended the reach, with online viewers from around the world tuning in to watch the films via the BISFF OTT platform.



## ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The festival’s interactive sessions, such as panel discussions, Q&As, and workshops, were a major hit, attracting enthusiastic participation from the audience. These sessions fostered dialogue between filmmakers and viewers, enriching the overall festival experience.

## MEDIA OUTREACH



BISFF 2024 enjoyed extensive media attention from both local and national outlets. Coverage in Deccan Herald, Times of India, and various online platforms amplified the festival’s presence and highlighted its significance in promoting independent short films.

Details	Totals	% Change
Impressions	18,344,298	382.40%
Engagements	243,330	48.30%
Post Link Clicks	173,561	51.50%
Engagement Rate	1.30%	69.30%
Total Audience	412,594	6.80%
Video Views	434,164	76.60%

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## OBJECTIVES

BISFF set out to create a community-driven platform, where filmmakers and film enthusiasts could come together to celebrate short films, share ideas, and collaborate.

## OFFLINE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Before the festival, BISFF established an offline community, 1SHORTS, at providing aspiring filmmakers with a space to discuss films, exchange ideas, and invite guest speakers for masterclasses. This initiative served as a platform for nurturing emerging talent. This is something that continues all year long.



### 1SHORTS COMMUNITY

A dynamic group of filmmakers growing daily, coming together to discuss new ideas and inspirations.

## WORKSHOPS AND PANELS

In addition to the screenings, BISFF organized several panel discussions featuring filmmakers, industry experts, and critics. Topics ranged from storytelling and representation to emerging trends in short films, offering attendees diverse perspectives on the art and business of filmmaking.



# CONCLUSION

BISFF 2024 marked a pivotal year in the festival's journey, embracing its role as an inclusive platform that showcases diverse, global narratives. The hybrid model, the wide array of short films, and the successful engagement with both in-person and online audiences solidified its position as India's leading short film festival.

With inclusive themes, a strong global presence, and community outreach, BISFF continues to set new benchmarks for short film festivals, making a lasting impact on both filmmakers and audiences alike. The festival's commitment to inclusivity was evident in its programming and outreach efforts. By featuring films with diverse themes and perspectives, BISFF 2024 promoted understanding and empathy among audiences.

BISFF 2024's success can be attributed to its supports from its partners Government of Karnataka, Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan, India Inclusion Summit, Shorts TV, Centre for Film and Drama and others. It's ability to adapt to evolving trends while maintaining its core values. The festival's dedication to showcasing exceptional short films, fostering community, and promoting cultural exchange has made it a must-attend event. As BISFF continues to evolve and grow, it remains poised to make a lasting impact on the filmmakers and audiences alike.



## BEHIND THE SCENES OF BISFF 2024

Passion, dedication, and pure joy, these snapshots capture the heart of our festival.



# CONTACT US



Phone/  
+91-98450-55034

Email/  
hello@bisff.in

Website/  
www.bisff.in